

# Student and Parent/Guardian Letter

Dear Parents/Guardians:

The benefits of enrolling in challenging classes are great. Students can experience the rigors of college-level classes and can explore subjects in greater depth with other capable, motivated students. They can even qualify for college credit if they do well on the Advanced Placement (AP) exams. While the rewards are many, we feel it is important to inform parents/guardians of students entering honors and AP classes of the demands these courses can put on students. Both honors and advanced placement classes assume students are ready for challenge.

The amount of homework continues to be important for students to consider when enrolling in these classes. While the amount will vary from class to class, daily homework assignments can require up to three hours or more of outside class work. Because of the expectations of the program, jobs, extracurricular activities, and class load also need to be considered. With the fast pace and the amount of material covered each day, daily attendance is essential. In addition, colleges are looking for well-rounded students with consistent performance, so spacing out the number of classes taken in a year is advised.

Students enrolling in these classes need to have a variety of qualifications. Some of these include:

- being self-motivated
- being able to meet deadlines
- being responsible for their learning
- being interested in being challenged
- being willing to consider new perspectives
- being willing to participate in class discussions
- being able to work productively with their fellow students
- being able to organize materials and work under pressure

Students must keep in mind the selection process is competitive. Candidates will be evaluated on recommendations from teachers, grades from previous classes, responses to personal essays on applications, results of in-class writes (English only), and timeliness of application materials.

Students enrolling in AP classes will be expected to take the AP exam in that area in May. Failure to take the AP exam will result in the course title on the grade report and on the transcript being changed from AP to honors.

Because we want parents/guardians and students to read the above information and discuss the contents, we ask you to show your understanding by signing this paper and returning it to the Advanced Placement Coordinator.

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Parent/Guardian Signature

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Date

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Student Signature

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Date